

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 23, 1981
and
Tuesday, February 24, 1981

J. C. Gilbert,
Chairman

Wildlife and Fisheries Building
400 Royal Street, Room 220
New Orleans, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

February 24, 1981

AGENDA

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Approval of minutes of January 27, 1981.	1
2. Presentation by Dr. Sherwood M. Gagliano concerning wetland deterioration problems and solutions.	1
3. Consider request from LSU Press for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to assist in the reprint of two books: LOUISIANA BIRDS and MAMMALS OF LOUISIANA AND ITS ADJACENT WATERS.	1
4. Naming of newly acquired wildlife management area. (Sicily Island Hills Wildlife Management Area)	2
5. Resolution by Mr. J. C. Gilbert concerning International Paper Company land donation.	2
6. Discuss Manchac building and facility.	3
7. Request from Nekoosa Timber Company for an extension of their timber cutting contract.	3
8. Discussion of dates for public hearings on hunting seasons and bag limits and dates of Commission Meetings.	3
9. Policy on introduction of Florida Bass into all of Louisiana.	3
10. Consider renewal of permit for South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission.	4
11. Present resolution regarding a new agenda format and certain other requirements for Commission Meetings.	4
12. Consider change for reporting action of the Commission.	4
13. Report on Board Minerals Committee Meeting.	5
14. Report on Board Wildlife Management Areas Committee.	5
15. Request authorization for travel expenses for members attending Concerned Shrimpers of Louisiana meeting, Thibodaux, Louisiana.	5

	<u>Page No.</u>
16. Report on Board Shell Committee Meeting.	5
17. Report on Board Oyster Committee Meeting.	8
18. Recommendation regarding surcharge on oyster leases.	8
19. Discuss travel regulations.	9
20. Discuss gill netting on offshore oil platforms.	9

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

held at

New Orleans, Louisiana

February 23, 1981 and
February 24, 1981

Chairman J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, presiding.

Members present:

Members absent:

Mr. J. C. Gilbert, Chairman
Mr. Charles A. Riggs, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, Member
Mr. James C. Farrelly, Member
Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, Member
Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, Member
Mr. Donald F. Wille, Member

None

Also present:

Mr. Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary

* * *

Chairman Gilbert called the regular monthly Commission Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M., February 23, 1981.

Upon motion of Mr. Jesse Knowles, seconded by Mr. Donald F. Wille, and carried unanimously, the Commission dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the January 26 and 27, 1981, Commission Meeting and moved their adoption.

Dr. Sherwood M. Gagliano, President, Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, gave a presentation concerning wetland deterioration problems and possible solutions.

Upon the request of Mr. Donald F. Wille, Mr. John D. Newsom presented a request from LSU Press for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to assist in the reprint of two books: LOUISIANA BIRDS and MAMMALS OF LOUISIANA AND ITS ADJACENT WATERS.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne Ducote, seconded by Mr. James Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the Secretary be authorized to enter into a contract for reprinting LOUISIANA BIRDS and MAMMALS OF LOUISIANA AND ITS ADJACENT WATERS.

Motion was made by Chairman J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the newly acquired wildlife management area in Catahoula Parish be named Sicily Island Hills Wildlife Management Area.

Motion was made by Chairman J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has in recent years been actively engaged in an aggressive land acquisition program for the purpose of preserving fish and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, suitable tracts of forestland are becoming extremely difficult to locate and acquire, and

WHEREAS, the demand for outdoor recreation has increased at an alarming rate, thereby creating the need for intensive management of fish and wildlife resources on all available public lands, and

WHEREAS, International Paper Company has donated 4,158.71 acres of prime timberland to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for the purpose of intensive fish and wildlife management, and

WHEREAS, said lands will be added to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries wildlife management area system, and

WHEREAS, these lands comprise the first major donation of fish and wildlife lands to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries since 1920, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission commends and praises International Paper Company for their exceptional public spirit and generosity in making these lands available for fish and wildlife purposes.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the Secretary be authorized to sign and enter into an agreement with Southeastern University concerning the Manchac building and facility located on Manchac Wildlife Management Area.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and carried unanimously, that the request from Nekoosa Timber Company for an extension of their timber cutting contract be denied.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the dates and locations for the public hearings on seasons and bag limits along with the dates and locations for the regular monthly Commission Meetings be as follows:

Public Hearings

March 23, 1981
7:00 P. M.
Holiday Inn-South
Lafayette, La.

April 27, 1981
7:00 P. M.
Hilton Inn
Kenner, La.

May 25, 1981
7:00 P. M.
Ramada Inn
Alexandria, La.

Commission Meetings

March 23, 1981 - 2:00 P.M.
March 24, 1981 - 10:00 A.M.
Holiday Inn-South
Lafayette, La.

April 27, 1981 - 2:00 P.M.
April 28, 1981 - 10:00 A.M.
Hilton Inn
Kenner, La.

May 25, 1981 - 2:00 P.M.
May 26, 1981 - 10:00 A.M.
Ramada Inn
Alexandria, La.

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, seconded by Mr. Donald F. Wille, and passed unanimously, that the Commission take no action on the request to extend the closure of Lake Vernon, Anacoco Lake and that portion of Anacoco Bayou between the lakes to commercial netting.

Motion was made by Mr. Donald F. Wille, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that Florida Bass be introduced into the waters of the State of Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, there is considerable interest among Louisiana sport fishermen regarding the introduction of the Florida Bass

(subspecies of the native Largemouth) to the waters of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence these fish exhibit certain desirable characteristics such as faster growth rates after the first year and the attainment of an ultimate larger size; and

WHEREAS, fisheries administrators in adjacent states have been releasing the Florida Bass in open public waters for the past eight years and have experienced no unsatisfactory results from these releases; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby approves the introduction of the Florida Bass into Louisiana waters, said introduction to begin the spring of 1981.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, that the permit requested by the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission be reissued upon payment of royalties with the penalty deleted. A roll call vote was taken with Messrs. Knowles, Orgeron, Riggs and Wille voting "no" and Messrs. Ducote and Farrelly voting "yes." The motion failed by a vote of 4 to 2.

Motion was made by Mr. Donald F. Wille, seconded by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, and passed unanimously, that the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission pay the past due royalties and penalties due under protest and the permit reissued to dredge fill material in the vicinity of Pass Manchac, North Pass area, State Project No. 570-53-08.

Mr. Wayne C. Ducote presented a resolution regarding a new agenda format and certain other requirements for Commission Meetings. This was postponed until the next monthly Commission Meeting.

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles recommended that the official minutes be done by Department employee, Mrs. Jan Sommers, in the future to help reduce costs. Mr. Knowles pointed out that the Governor had instructed the Department to cut the budget by 10 percent.

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles also recommended that the tapes of the meetings be kept on file for use by Commission Members.

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles requested that unofficial meetings

cease immediately and the official meeting will start on Monday. The meeting will be formally opened and then go into "a committee of the whole" and participants can come up and talk. After the Monday meeting is over, progress will be reported and then ~~adjourn~~ until the next day, the official meeting as it is now called.

There was no opposition to the suggestion that Secretary Guidry proceed under the recommendations offered by Mr. Jesse M. Knowles.

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles gave a report of the Minerals Committee Meeting which was held on February 11, 1981, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The minerals situation on Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area was discussed to determine whether or not the State of Louisiana can adequately develop the minerals under the purchase agreement.

Mr. Donald F. Wille gave a report of the Wildlife Management Areas Committee Meeting held on February 11, 1981, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The new proposed publication for Louisiana Hunting and Fishing Regulations was discussed.

Motion was made by Mr. Donald F. Wille, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the Chairman authorize travel expenses for those Commission Members who attended the Concerned Shrimpers of Louisiana Meeting in Thibodaux, Louisiana, on February 21, 1981.

Mr. James C. Farrelly gave a report of the Shell Committee Meeting held on February 11, 1981, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, regarding severance taxes on fill material and shell.

Mr. James C. Farrelly introduced a letter from the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association as follows:

(The full text of the letter
is here made part of the record)

LOUISIANA OYSTER DEALERS AND GROWERS ASSN.
1332 Mendez Street
New Orleans, LA 70122

February 23, 1981

Commissioner James Farrelly
Chairman of the Oyster Committee
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
400 Royal St.
New Orleans, La. 70116

Dear Jim:

This is in reference to your meeting of February 4, 1981, at which time we discussed a surcharge on surveys to compensate for the department hiring a private surveyor. This matter was further discussed at a Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association meeting on February 9, 1981.

There was some lengthy discussion amongst all the members present particularly centering around the statement by Schafer at the November 4th meeting that approximately 800 surveys could be done annually. Some simple mathematics, at \$25.00 a survey produces a figure of \$20,000 a year plus an additional \$3,520 for consulting produces a total yearly cost of \$23,520. In addition, we believe, (no one has specifically said what it is) a civil service surveyor's salary would be around \$26,000. We, at the beginning, advocated paying the difference which apparently does not exist, unless our mathematics is wrong. This coupled with the fact brought out at the November 4th meeting that these accreted funds could not be specifically earmarked for oyster or survey section use, lead the members present to unanimously vote on the motion to pay no surcharge until such time it could be proved that there exists a difference. One must remember that the entire discussion is centered around the salary of a surveyor--not additional administrative cost. The other costs, I believe have been amply taken care of in the four fold increase of application fees and the doubling of rentals.

I must personally apologize for this belated letter. It was a misunderstanding on my part, but it did provide additional time for discussion of this issue as well as allowing time for input from the other oyster fishermen of this state. Again, I apologize and the entire oyster industry is appreciative of your efforts on our behalf and remain

Sincerely,

/s/ Luke V. Petrovich
Luke V. Petrovich, President

LVP/mv
Copy to:
Dr. Ford
H. Schafer

Mr. James C. Farrelly introduced the following resolution from the Plaquemines Oyster Growers and Dealers Association.

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Oyster Growers and Dealers Association has become aware of the problem the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is having obtaining a surveyor; and

WHEREAS, in the past years the oyster fisherman of Louisiana have realized this is a problem and agreed to an increase in survey fees from 10 acres for \$20.00, 11-20 acres \$30.00, .50¢ for each additional acre up to 200 acres and .25¢ additional for each acre up to 1,000 acres to \$80.00 for the first 10 acres \$120.00 for 11-20 acres, \$2.00 additional per acre up to 200 acres and \$1.00 additional per acre up to 1,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the renewal application and survey fees were the same prior to the survey fee change, however, a new schedule has now been instituted requiring \$50.00 renewal fee for 10 acres, \$75.00 for 11-20 acres, \$1.25 for each additional acre up to 200 acres and .65¢ for each additional acre up to 1,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the shot points for boundary marking have also been increased from \$20.00 for 2 points and \$10.00 for each additional point to \$80.00 for 2 shot points and \$40.00 for each additional shot point; and

WHEREAS, two years later these monies were, apparently, not enough to eliminate the problem of finding an adequate surveyor; and

WHEREAS, the oyster fisherman again reluctantly agreed to help solve the problem by way of an increase in the annual acreage rental fees from \$1.00 per acre to \$2.00 per acre; and

WHEREAS, the oyster industry is still faced with the problem of no or an insufficient availability of surveyors to allow the industry to progress and meet its needs; and

WHEREAS, it is suggested by certain individuals that an additional fee in the form of a surcharge would help eliminate the existing problem of finding adequate funds for the

necessary surveyor and it has been learned from a staff member of the seafood division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, that an estimated 800 surveys per year is possible at a cost of \$25.00 per survey, as per the existing contract, totaling \$20,000 plus 20 field trips per year costing \$175.00 per trip, equaling \$3,500 for field trips for a grand total cost of \$23,500 per year; subtracting this total cost figure from the \$26,000 contract leaves you a balance of \$2,500 divided by the estimated 800 surveys per year will yield a surplus of \$3.12 per survey based on the existing contract; and

WHEREAS, it is felt by this organization, the Plaquemines Oyster Growers and Dealers Association, that adequate funds exist within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide the necessary surveying capacity and is further felt that this organization would support, if it compelled to do so, and an additional fee in the form of a surcharge if these funds were not available; and

WHEREAS, if an additional charge of any nature or type would or could be constitutionally dedicated for that purpose or any other this organization could justify supporting such a stop gap measure; and

WHEREAS, in the past none of the measures agreed to by the oyster industry have benefitted the oyster fisherman directly; and

WHEREAS, the oyster industry can not now be guaranteed that an improvement will occur.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Plaquemines Oyster Growers and Dealers Association that it can not justify supporting or endorsing in any fashion an increase in the fees already burdening the oyster industry of the state.

Chairman Gilbert accepted the foregoing letter and resolution to be made an official part of the minutes.

Mr. James C. Farrelly gave a report of the Oyster Committee Meeting held on February 4, 1981, and Oyster Committee Meeting on February 23, 1981, in New Orleans, Louisiana, relative to fixing a surcharge on oyster leases approved by the contract surveyor.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that no surcharge be fixed on oyster leases.

Chairman Gilbert stated the Division of Administration has published a new set of travel regulations and one item that would effect the Commission Members would be that in the future, from this meeting date on, the Commission would be required to substantiate meals by attaching receipts to expense vouchers.

Mr. Eric Byer, representing Concerned Sports Fishermen and Louisiana Underwater Diving Council, requested the Commission to investigate gill netting on the offshore oil platforms and presented several reasons why this practice should be stopped. Chairman Gilbert asked Dr. Ted Ford to check into this and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Bill Cantwell, Plaquemines Parish Office of Fisheries, stated that he had just recently heard of this problem and wanted to point out that it was not your local fishermen involved in this. He also supported Mr. Byer's statements.

Upon motion of Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.

Jesse J. Guidry
Secretary

J. C. Gilbert
Chairman